

HOUSE BILL 363

By Mumpower

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,  
Chapter 17, Part 13 and Title 70, relative to  
possession of a firearm in certain places.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1311(b)(1), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

(l)

(i) Any person possessing a handgun while within the boundaries of any park located in this state that is owned or operated by any municipal, county or state government, or instrumentality thereof, if such person is authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351;

(ii) To the extent permitted by federal law, any person possessing a handgun while within the boundaries of any park located in this state that is owned or operated by the federal government, or any instrumentality thereof, if such person is authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1359, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any person from possessing a handgun while within the boundaries of any public park in this state if such person is authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-117, is amended by adding the following language as new subsection (d):

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a person who is authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351 may possess a handgun the entire year while on the premises of any refuge, public hunting area, wildlife management area or, to the extent permitted by federal law, national forest land maintained by the state. Nothing in this subsection (d) shall authorize a person to use any handgun to hunt unless such person is in full compliance with all wildlife laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-123, is amended by deleting subsection (a) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a)

(1) It is unlawful for any person hunting big game with a bow and arrow to be in possession of any firearms or be accompanied in hunting by any person possessing firearms during the archery-only deer season.

(2) Nothing in this subsection (a) shall be construed to prohibit any person from possessing a handgun or being accompanied by a person possessing a handgun while hunting big game with a bow and arrow during the archery-only deer season within the boundaries of any public park in this state if the person in possession of the handgun is authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351. Nothing in this subdivision (a) (2) shall authorize a person to use any handgun to hunt unless such person is in full compliance with all wildlife laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-5-101, is amended by adding the following language as subsection (c) and by redesignating the remaining subsections accordingly:

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b), a person who is authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351 may possess a handgun the entire year while on the

premises of any refuge, public hunting area or wildlife management area or, to the extent permitted by federal law, national forest land maintained by the state. Nothing in this subsection (c) shall authorize a person to use any handgun to hunt unless such person is in full compliance with all wildlife laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 6. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, neither the department of environment and conservation nor any other entity of state or local government shall prohibit any person from possessing a handgun while within the boundaries of any public park in this state, if such person is authorized to carry a firearm pursuant to § 39-17-1351.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.